

House Republican Press Release

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O'Neill Receives Award Noting Work for Children



Southbury Legislator Honored by Shared Parenting Council

HARTFORD- Representative Arthur O'Neill (R-Southbury) has been honored by the Shared Parenting Council as an effective legislator for his work this past session on PA 05-258, a new law that redefines “the best interests of the child” to include active involvement by both parents. It also requires detailed Parental Responsibility Plans and it encourages conciliation of disputes without involvement of the children.

The award was voted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shared Parenting Council of Connecticut. All Board Members present voted the award unanimously: John Clapp, PhD; Dr. Paul Appleton, MD; Dr. Eric Gladstein, DDS; Robert Stewart, M.S. and J.D.

“I deeply appreciate this recognition by the Shared Parenting Council,” said Representative O'Neill. “I have always worked toward making the law concerning parental and custodial rights more family-sensitive, particularly for children. I intend to continue that work.”

The mission of the Shared Parenting Council of Connecticut (SPC) is to obtain the presumption of equal parenting opportunities before the law regardless of gender. The SPC is working to change the judicial system so as to better serve children.

The SPC works with state legislature, nonprofit groups and lobbying groups to promote change in Connecticut's legal and regulatory framework, and seeks a framework that promotes active involvement of both parents in the lives of their children. They believe the state cannot guarantee that parents will make the right decisions for their children, but it can provide incentives to encourage this.

The SPC believes that custody laws in Connecticut should be oriented around the need to promote frequent and continued contact between children and their mother and father.